

Dementias & Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network

Supporting the development of new clinical research

This factsheet summarises the way DeNDRoN seeks to support the development of new clinical research; and how this support can be accessed. For information about getting help to deliver clinical research, please see the factsheet 'Supporting the delivery of clinical research'. For further information, please visit www.dendron.org.uk

What is DeNDRoN?

The Dementias & Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network (DeNDRoN) is a UK-wide initiative that aims to improve the speed, quality and integration of research in dementias, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, Huntington's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases, resulting in improvements in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for patients.

DeNDRoN facilitates the development and conduct of clinical trials and other well-designed studies by:

- coordinating focused, effective investment in NHS research infrastructure to ensure that quality research, funded by both commercial and non-commercial organisations, receives the support to succeed
- building on the strengths already present in the UK as well as increasing general capacity in the field of dementia and neurodegeneration
- promoting collaboration between patients, carers, researchers, clinicians, academics, NHS Trusts, funders and industry, to support the integrated development of new research

DeNDRoN is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) as part of the UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN).

What research is eligible for DeNDRoN support?

DeNDRoN supports randomised controlled trials and other well-designed studies, including those for prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

DeNDRoN resources can only be used to support the development and delivery of studies eligible for inclusion in the UKCRN Portfolio.

These include all studies funded by the NIHR and its partners, commercial trials adopted into the Portfolio through DeNDRoN Coordinating Centre, and other non-commercial studies that are peer reviewed and fully funded through open, national competition.

For details of the full eligibility criteria, please contact DeNDRoN UK Coordinating Centre or visit www.nihr.ac.uk

How does DeNDRoN support the development of new clinical research?

DeNDRoN supports the development of research by:

- Promoting collaborative working between all stakeholders
- Facilitating communication between groups of researchers and funders
- Providing access to statistical and methodological advice
- Supporting the active involvement of patients and carers in research

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DeNDRoN does not develop its own research, but aims to support the UK research community working closely together to increase the amount of high quality research that is developed in the dementias and neurodegenerative diseases.

Supporting development at a national level

DeNDRoN has established UK-wide groups to support coordinated and integrated approaches to the development of new research proposals. These bring together key stakeholders (including researchers, patients and funders) from across the UK to promote collaboration at a national level.

UK Clinical Studies Groups:

- Oversee the development of DeNDRoN's research portfolio, consider new research questions, develop proposals and assist with securing funding
- Include between six to 20 appointed individuals with clinical and research experience. The groups also include patient and carer representatives
- Link closely with Local Research Network disease leads, to develop local research priorities in parallel with national research development initiatives

UK Clinical Studies Groups have been established in the following topics:

Dementias, chaired by Professor Alistair Burns, University of Manchester

Parkinson's disease, chaired by Professor Andrew Lees, University College London

Motor neurone disease, chaired by Professor Pamela Shaw, University of Sheffield

Huntington's disease, chaired by Professor Anne Rosser, Cardiff University

Primary care, chaired by Dr Steve Iliffe, University College London

Neuropathology & brain banking, chaired by Professor Paul Ince, University of Sheffield, and Professor Jim Lowe, University of Nottingham

Special Interest Groups have been established to bring together expertise across disease areas in the following topics:

Clinical Research Methodology, chaired by Professor John Zajicek, University of Plymouth
Neuropalliative Rehabilitation, chaired by Professor Lynne Turner-Stokes, King's College London

For information about the outputs from these groups, joining the groups or about establishing new groups, please contact the DeNDRoN UK Coordinating Centre.

Supporting development at a regional level

DeNDRoN supports regional collaboration between groups of researchers, patients and NHS Trusts to set local priorities, and develop research appropriate to patient need and local expertise.

This is done through Local Research Networks in England, NEURODEM Cymru in Wales and the Recognised Research Group for Neuroscience in Northern Ireland.

For contact details of your local network, please visit www.dendron.org.uk

DeNDRoN UK Coordinating Centre supports interaction between local and national initiatives and provides access to expert advice on study design, funding and delivery through Clinical Trials Units in London and Newcastle.

For further information please visit www.dendron.org.uk

Or contact the DeNDRoN Coordinating Centre:
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